

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

1. (Original) Crystalline sodium (2S, 3S)-3-[[ (1S)-1-isobutoxymethyl-3-methylbutyl]carbamoyl]oxirane-2- carboxylate having the following characteristics:

DSC: exothermic peak observed at a temperature in the range of 170 to 175°C with weight decrease; and

characteristic absorption bands of infrared absorption spectrum measured on KBr tablet: 3255, 2950, 2860, 1670, 1630, 1550, 1460, 1435, 1395, 1365, 1310, 1260, 1110, 890 cm<sup>-1</sup>

2. (Original) Crystalline potassium (2S,3S)-3-[[ (1S)-1-isobutoxymethyl-3-methylbutyl] carbamoyl]oxirane-2-carboxylate having the following characteristics:

DSC: exothermic peak observed at 177°C with weight decrease; and

characteristic absorption bands of infrared absorption spectrum measured on KBr tablet: 3270, 3080, 2950, 2870, 1680, 1625, 1560, 1460, 1380, 1300, 1240, 1110, 895 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

3 . (Currently Amended) A process for preparation of crystal line sodium or potassium (2S, 3S)-3- [ (1S)-1-isobutoxymethyl-3-methylbutyl]carbamoyl]oxirane-2-carboxylate, comprising the following steps (1) to (6):

(1) hydrolyzing an ester of (2S,3S)-3-[[ (1S)-1-isobutoxymethyl –3-methylbutyl] carbamoyl]oxirane-2-carboxylic acid, to obtain (2S,3S)-3-[[ (1S)-1-isobutoxymethyl-3-methylbutyl] carbamoyl] oxirane-2-carboxylic acid,

(2) causing the carboxylic acid obtained in the preceding step to react with an organic amine, to prepare a salt of (2S, 3S) -3- [[ (1S) -1-isobutoxymethyl-3-methyl butyl] carbamoyl] oxirane-2-carboxylic acid with the organic amine,

(3 ) adding an acid to the salt obtained in the preceding step, to obtain (2S, 3S) -3 -[[ (1S) -1-isobutoxymethyl-3-methylbutyl] carbamoyl]oxirane-2-carboxylic acid,

(4) causing the carboxylic acid obtained in the preceding step to react with a basic sodium or potassium compound in a mixed solvent of water and an aliphatic alcohol or acetone, to obtain a sodium or potassium salt,

(5) recrystallizing the sodium or potassium salt obtained in the preceding step using an aliphatic alcohol, and

(6) drying the product recrystallized in the preceding step under reduced pressure.

4 . (Currently Amended) A process for preparation of crystalline sodium or potassium (2S, 3S)-3- [[(1S)-1-isobutoxymethyl-3-methylbutyl]carbamoyl]oxirane-2-carboxylate, comprising the following steps (1) to (4):

(1) causing an ester of (2S, 3S)-3-[[ (1S)-1-isobutoxymethyl-3-methylbutyl] carbamoyl] oxirane-2-carboxylic acid to react with a basic sodium or potassium compound, to obtain sodium or potassium (2S, 3S)-3-[[ (1S)-1-isobutoxymethyl-3-methylbutyl] carbamoyl] oxirane-2-carboxylate,

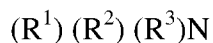
(2) crystallizing the sodium or potassium salt obtained in the preceding step from a mixed solvent of water and acetone, to obtain crystalline sodium or potassium salt,

(3) recrystallizing the sodium or potassium salt obtained in the preceding step using an aliphatic alcohol, and

(4) drying the product recrystallized in the preceding step under reduced pressure.

5. (Currently Amended) A salt of (2S,3S)-3-[[ (1S)-1-isobutoxymethyl-3-methylbutyl] carbamoyl] oxirane-2-carboxylic acid with an organic amine other than triethylamine and pyridine.

6. (Currently Amended) A salt of (2S,3S)-3-[[ (1S)-1-isobutoxymethyl-3-methylbutyl] carbamoyl]oxirane-2-carboxylic acid with an organic amine other than triethylamine and pyridine, which is represented by the formula of:



in which  $R^1$  is hydrogen or a linear-chain, branched-chain or cyclic alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms;  $R^2$  is hydrogen or a linear-chain, branched-chain or cyclic alkyl or aralkyl group of 1 to 10 carbon atoms; and  $R^3$  is a linear-chain, branched-chain or cyclic alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms which may have a substituent selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, nitro, hydroxyl, carboxyl, guanidino, amino and aralkylamino groups; or otherwise  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  can be combined to form a 5- to 7-membered ring comprising the nitrogen atom to which  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are connected, the ring possibly containing additional nitrogen atom.

7. (Original) A salt of (2S,3S)-3-[[ (1S)-1-isobutoxymethyl-3-methylbutyl] carbamoyl] oxirane-2-carboxylic acid with an organic amine selected from the group consisting of

piperazine, adamantane amines, cyclohexylamine, dicyclohexylamine, tris(hydroxymethyl) aminomethane, arginine, lysine, benzathine, and meglumine.